Regulatory authority for guidelines on SEZs

1664. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are setting up any regulatory authority for framing guidelines on SEZs;

(b) if so, the deatils thereof;

(c) the progress achieved in this direction;

(d) whether there is any national referendum on the SEZ policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Frauds by EOUs

1665. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to study ways to reduce frauds by 100 per cent EOUs in the country;

(b) whether Government are not giving fresh permission to entrepreneurs to set up such units;

(c) the reasons for creating a monopoly situation for some EOUs in the country;

(d) what steps would be taken to totally liberalize the system of giving permission for EOUs, or to remove them totally; and

(e) the thinking of Government in this matter and proposals to change the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A detailed mechanism has been provided in the Foreign Trade Policy

for joint monitoring of the performance of EOUs by the jurisdictional Development Commissioners and Customs/Central Excise Authorities on six-monthly basis. Besides, the EOUs are subject to regular/special audits and checks by the Customs/Central Excise Authorities., Any frauds by EOUs result in fiscal penalties and even suspension/cancellation of the EOU status under the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 besides penal action under the provisions of the Central Excise & Customs Acts.

(b) to (e) Applications for setting up of 100 per cent EOU are regularly considered by the unit approval committee and Board of Approval, as the case may be.

Regional Offices of SEZ Boards of Approvals

1666. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Economic Zones Board of Approvals is opening four regional offices all over the country.

(b) if so, the selected locations of the proposed regional offices of the SEZ Board of Approvals;

(c) the level of officers who would man these regional offices;

(d) the funding for these four regional offices in 2007-08; and

(e) the reasons for setting up of such regional SEZ offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) to (e) Do no arise.

Production and export of spices

1667. DR. M.A.M RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the output and export of spices in the country is stagnating;

(b) if so, whether the Standing Committee on Commerce has